

## House of Representatives Families, Children & Senior Committee

**Date:** 3/21/2012

**To:** Representatives: Ken Kurtz, Chair; Margaret O'Brien, Vice Chair; Gail Haines, member; Kurt Heise, member; Thomas Hooker, member; Bruce Rendon, member; Dian Slavens, member; Marilyn Lane, member; Maureen Stapleton, member.

**From:** W. Paul Mayhue, Former Democratic Kent County Commissioner and Chair of The Kent County Mental Health Parity Discussion Group/ Hank Fuhs Co-Chair and General Secretary of Michigan Republican Party, Linda Brauer of CHADD, Cyndy Viars

**RE:** Autism Bills and Senator Rebekah Warren's Amendment of Senate bill 414

**Priority:** [Urgent]

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I am reminded here about how God gave the law to Moses so that some order and justice would prevail on this land and how Jesus came to save our souls and for our redemption. Ecclesiastes Chapter 5 verses 8 and 9 say: If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth: and there be higher than they. More over the profit of the earth is for all.

Senator Rebekah Warren has proposed a very just resolution to a difficult problem for the Republican Caucus. Senate Bill 414 helps to include Mental Health Parity for the youth of our state. Our cities are rampant with young people that are crying out for mercy because of the pressures of society and our system; such as greed, lack of vision due to poor prospects for gainful sustainable employment, entrepreneurial opportunities that are being exported overseas, and babies having babies and parent or parents that don't know how to direct their children. The learning curb starts in the womb not at 5 years old school age.

We have to take care of the whole spectrum of mental health. The mind, body and spirit. There are approximately 44 states in this union that have passed mental health parity laws and Michigan has sat back and done nothing. Research has shown that the mental health parity laws have not had a significant increase to insurance premium cost. The congressional budget office estimates that premiums could increase by two tenths of one percent. This amounts to pennies on the dollar, so what is Michigan afraid of?

Now, from a race specific prospective, African Americans are imprisoned much more than the general society. Oppression leads to depression and depression leads to medication. IM psychotropic medications are given to black people 5 times more than our white counterparts. IM medications are very destructive to the brain waves and synapses. The high cost of mental health treatment has driven our urban and rural communities into a self-medication mode. We have Crack cocaine for the Urban Black and Inner-city Poor person, crack cocaine users are 16 times more likely to be imprisoned than any other drug in America. Meth Labs for the Rural Poor White person, and synthetic drugs and huffing for children of former middle income American people, all types of self-medication is super destructive. You the House of Representatives are at the time in history that you can affect change for a lot of people moving forward and change destructive paths for our youth and families going forward. Don't squander this opportunity. Pass the whole mental health parity bill or at least pass Senator Warren's Senate Bill 414 as an addition to Autism.